

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The lecture by Professor Stephen Hawking, World renowned Physicist, in New Delhi on 17th January, 2001, was organized by the Centre for Philosophy and Foundation of Science. The telecast rights of the said event were with Discovery Channel. DD approached Discovery Channel and obtained the permission for telecast and thereafter issued a press release about the live telecast of the said lecture. Discovery Channel withdrew the permission for the live telecast on the evening of 16th January, 2001 on the grounds that the organizers had not agreed to the live telecast. However, DD made special arrangements with the Discovery Channel to obtain a recording of the said lecture and this was telecast on the News Channel on 18th January, 2001 at 10 PM and on DD-I on 21st January, 2001 at 7 PM.

(c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Industrial Institutions

†*71. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive scheme has been formulated to disinvest all public sector industrial units;

(b) if so, when the said scheme was formulated and what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the scheme is targeted to be introduced; and

(d) the estimated amount likely to accrue through disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment of the Government equity in the Central Public Sector Enterprises is being carried out in accordance with the disinvestment policy of the Government as enunciated from time to time. Its main elements are:

- * Restructuring and reviving potentially viable PSUs;
- * Closing down PSUs, which cannot be revived;
- * Bringing down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and
- * Fully protect the interests of workers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It has also been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

- (1) Arms and amunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships.
- (2) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries).
- (3) Railway transport.

Moreover, for the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises, the reduction of Government share to 26% **would not be automatic** and the manner and pace of doing so would be worked out on a case to case basis. A decision in regard to the percentage of disinvestment i.e., Government share going down to less than 51% or to 26%, would be taken on the following consideration:—

- (i) whether the industrial sector requires the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration of power in private hands, and
- (ii) whether the industrial sector requires a proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

No separate scheme has been formulated to disinvest all public sector industrial units.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The realization from disinvestment of equity depends on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the company, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the investor(s)/buyer (s), advise of the professional consultants etc. No estimates of amounts likely to accrue from disinvestment can, therefore, be made.

Geeta Krishnan Committee Report

†*72. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received Geeta Krishnan Committee's Report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.